

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE		ILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,409		01/04/2002	Michio Takahashi	800_024 DIV	7728
25191	7590	05/15/2003			
. BURR & BROWN				EXAMINER	
PO BOX 7068 SYRACUSE, NY 13261-7068				BOS, STEVEN J	
				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1754		
			DATE MAILED: 05/15/2003		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Applicant(s) Application No.

10/037,409

Examiner

Art Unit

Takahashi

Office Action Summary

Steven Bos 1754 -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-29-02 and 3-18-02 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims is/are pending in the application. 4) 💢 Claim(s) *5-15* 4a) Of the above, claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. is/are allowed. 5) Claim(s) 6) 💢 Claim(s) <u>5-15</u> is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claims ______ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. **Application Papers** 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ______ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) \square The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☑ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. X Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/495,065 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received. 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Petent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s).2,3,6,7 6) Other:

Application/Control Number: 10/037409

Art Unit: 1754

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 5,7,12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In claim 5, the preamble and each occurrence of "controlling" are new matter.

In claim 7, "wherein ... 5 to 50 hours" is new matter.

In claim 12, "wherein ... to form a final material" is new matter.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 5, "controlling the crystallite size ... or greater" and "controlling the lattice distortion ... or less" is indefinite and fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim what the positive process steps of the method are. It is indefinite as to what is meant by "controlling" or what is considered to be "controlling".

Application/Control Number: 10/037409

Art Unit: 1754

In claim 7, "at least one of (i) salts ... and oxides of manganese" is indefinite as to what the "at least one of' refers to since the word "and" is used in the recitation a total of three times and therefore would appear to require all of the members and not just "at least one of'.

In claim 10, "pulverization step" is indefinite as to what is being pulverized during the "pulverization step".

In claim 14, "the pulverized mixture" lack(s) proper antecedent basis in the claim(s).

In claim 15, "at least one of (i) salts ... and oxides of manganese" is indefinite as to what the "at least one of' refers to since the word "and" is used in the recitation a total of three times and therefore would appear to require all of the members and not just "at least one of".

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer '947 or Ogihara '410 or Manev '943.

Each of the references teaches the instantly claimed steps for "controlling" recited in claims 7 and 12 which would therefore control the crystallite size and lattice distortion because

Page 4

Application/Control Number: 10/037409

Art Unit: 1754

that is what is instantly claimed. See example 5 of Mayer; cols. 5,6 of Ogihara; cols. 5,6 of

Maney.

The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to select the portion of the prior art's range which is within

the range of applicant's claims because it has been held to be obvious to select a value in a known

range by optimization for the best results, see In re Boesch, 205 USPQ 215.

The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to have selected the overlapping portion of the range

disclosed by the reference because overlapping ranges have been held to be a prima facie case of

obviousness, In re Malagari, 182 USPQ 549.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Steven Bos whose telephone number is (703) 308-2537. The examiner is on

the increased flexitime program schedule and can normally be reached between 8AM and 6PM

Monday through Friday. The FAX No. for After Final amendments is 703-872-9311; for all

others it is 703-872-9310. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this

application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Art Unit 1754